

Boat Review



Quintrex 610 Freedom Sport

an all-round family boat

REVIEW & PHOTOGRAPHY - JOHN HESELWOOD

If you are after a great family fun boat that you can also enjoy your fishing then the new 610 Quintrex Freedom Sport could be just what you are looking for.

The new 610 is the largest in the Quintrex bowrider range. It features the new Millennium Blade Hull which has been implemented on all Quintrex boats above six metres.

The new hull has been created to improve the riding of the bigger boats to emulate that of the smaller models in the range. With an increased dead rise, relaxed stem line and new gunnel shape the 610 certainly has an excellent ride.

The 610 Freedom Sport also features all new internals. A new design which is modern and slimline with moulded panels that achieve a soft touch finish.

Starting from the stern the new features include a deluxe rear lounge which now has under cushion storage. It folds out of the way if serious fishing is on the agenda. A central reinforced socket can be optioned with a skipole or bait rigging workbench



and bait-tank. Another live fish well is optional for the bulkhead beside it and there is room for a few more rod holders for the serious fisher.

But this boat is all about family fun and whether they're water skiing, on the doughnut or wake-boarding, the kids will

have no trouble getting on and off the boat with the rear fold-down telescopic ladder. Each side of the outboard, there's a small boarding deck with a soft non-slip surface.

No need to worry about space to store the play things, the underfloor front and rear compartments provide plenty of room for



all the gear. There is also limited stowage each side in pockets incorporated into enclosed cockpit sides that hold flotation.

The helm console has been given that same soft touch finish and its design makes maximum use of the space. The top is curved, with the vertical part housing the gauges, the flat space in front, the GPS/sounder and the lower panel, the steering wheel, VHF radio, compass and rocker switches. The lower half of the console is left open which allows you to stretch the legs.

No-feedback mechanical steering is standard and hydraulic steering is optional.

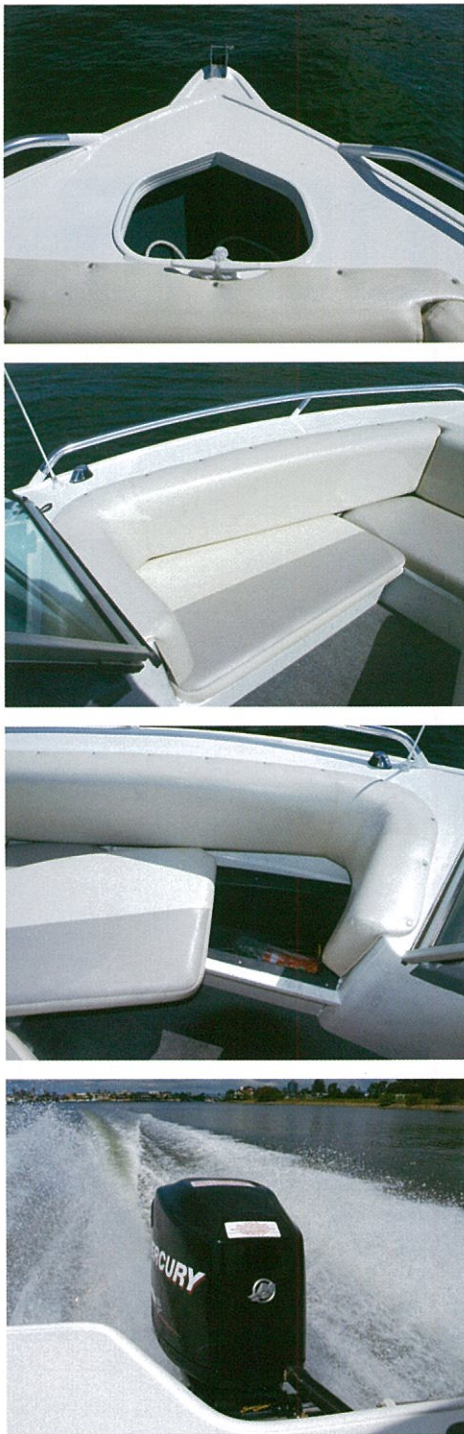
The acrylic windscreen wraps around nicely and features a sturdy grabrail around the top. Both the helm and passenger seats are shallow buckets, with a swing-over back, so either seat can be used facing forward or aft.

There is a similar shaped console on the passenger side which has an acrylic top water-proof compartment which houses the stereo unit and plenty of room for personal

items. Under is again open but the space is used to store the life jackets.

Up in the bow is a neat looking, low bowrail, integrated with a bowsprit and fairlead feeding a foredeck anchor well which is sufficiently spacious to accommodate a fair bit of rope and chain. The well is lined in rotomoulded plastic to avoid the racket of ground tackle banging against the hull.

As you would expect in a six metre boat, the bow lounge is roomy and is well



upholstered with a deep backrest. There's plenty of stowage underneath the seat cushions and there is an option of a table, with sockets to situate it in either the bow lounge or aft in the cockpit. A tonneau cover for the bow lounge is also on the options list.

Standard inclusions for the 610 Freedom Sport include a carpeted deck, cockpit lighting, compass, sounder, VHF radio, two rodholders, drinkholders and a 120 litre underfloor fuel tank. An extra 42lt fuel tank is optional.

Other options include Bimini shade tops; Plusher bucket seats; movable table; stereo system; skipole or bait rigging workbench; berley bucket and a twin-battery setup.

The Freedom Sport hull is rated up to a

175hp outboard, but the boat we reviewed had a 150hp Mercury Optimax EXLS which gave the 610 performance lively enough to satisfy most ski and wakeboard members of the family.

With 4mm bottom sides and 3mm top sides the 610 Freedom Sport is one hearty boat

that weighs in at approximately 747kg, making it easily towable with the family 4WD.

The 610 Freedom Sport like all models in the Quintrex range can come as a boat, motor and trailer package to get you out on the water faster.

Specifications

■ Length overall:	6.16 metres	■ Engine max hp:	175
■ Beam:	2.40 metres	■ Max engine weight:	256kg
■ Depth:	1.40 metres	■ Max load:	976kg
■ Weight boat only:	747kg	■ Price as tested:	\$55,450
■ Construction:	Aluminium	■ Priced from:	\$51,890
■ Topsides:	3mm	■ Dealer:	Tweed Coast Marine
■ Bottomsides:	4mm		Tweed Heads South, NSW.
■ Fuel capacity:	120 litres		www.tweedcoastmarine.com.au